

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (original): An alkaline, pulverised active substance for the deacidification of printed matter, in particular bound books, wherein the active substance is distributed over the printed matter by means of air, characterised in that the active substance comprises a mixture of at least two dried inorganic salts, the anionic parts of the salts having a relatively low acidity constant, in that a salt having relatively low water affinity is the main constituent of the active substance and in that at least one further salt has relatively high water affinity.

Claim 2 (original): An alkaline active substance according to claim 1, characterised in that the salt having high water affinity is potassium carbonate and the salt having relatively low water affinity is potassium hydrogen carbonate, in that potassium carbonate is present in the active substance in an amount of 7% to 15% by weight and in that the active substance has an average particle size of 20 μm to 30 μm and a residual moisture content of less than 20% by weight.

Claim 3 (original): An alkaline active substance according to claim 1, characterised in that the salt having high water affinity is potassium carbonate and the salt having relatively low water affinity is potassium hydrogen carbonate, in that potassium carbonate is present in the active substance in an amount of 0.1% to 5% by weight and in that the active substance has an average particle size of 28 μm to 35 μm and a residual moisture content of less than 15% by weight.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An alkaline active substance according to ~~either one of claims 2 and 3~~ claim 2, characterised in that wherein an addition of potassium hydrogen phosphate or ammonium thiocyanate is present in the active substance in an amount of 1% to 5% by weight.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An alkaline active substance according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 4~~ claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein 0.5% to 2% by weight of polystyrene balls with a diameter of 0.2 mm to 2 mm is added to the active substance.

Claims 6-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (new): An alkaline active substance according to claim 3, wherein an addition of potassium hydrogen phosphate or ammonium thiocyanate is present in the active substance in an amount of 1% to 5% by weight.

Claim 18 (new): An alkaline active substance according to claim 3, wherein 0.5% to 2% by weight of polystyrene balls with a diameter of 0.2 mm to 2 mm is added to the active substance.

Claim 19 (new): An alkaline active substance according to claim 4, wherein 0.5% to 2% by weight of polystyrene balls with a diameter of 0.2 mm to 2 mm is added to the active substance.